

QUESTION OF ISRAEL IN THE LAND
by Willis E. Bishop

(From Study in Revelation)

Concerning Israel in the land -- there is a difference of opinion. Good prophetic scholars say Israel is in the land, they are a nation, but they will be driven out because it is not yet prophetic times. I respect that, but it does not happen to be my opinion.

Turn to Isaiah 11:11: It shall come to pass in that day that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time [underline the second time] to recover the remnant of His people ... [the last of verse 12] from the four corners of the earth.

He will restore His people the second time. Now again a little brief history concerning Israel. We are talking about the nation. Sometimes it is said that there are three dispersions and three recoveries or returns of the nation of Israel. That is not quite accurate.

In Genesis Joseph is sold into Egypt, a famine comes, and eventually Jacob and all twelve of his sons are located in Egypt. But they are not a nation. Under the leadership of Moses and Joshua, some four hundred years later, they enter the land, and they are in the land for the first time. That is not a return of the nation to the land -- they had never been a nation before. Then in the Assyrian captivity and the Babylonian captivity, that is their first time out of the land as a nation. A small remnant (some 50,000) later returned under Ezra, Nehemiah and Zerubbabel, and then grew in numbers. That was return number one.

They were in the land until the time of Christ, and the Romans dispersed them again in 70 A.D. Dispersion number two. In May 1948 they returned to the land for the second time. Nowhere in Scripture do you find that Israel is returned to the land for a third time. While they will go through difficult times, yet it is never said they would be restored a third time. My conclusion is that they will never be driven out again. They will be there until the Antichrist comes, makes this covenant, builds a temple, and then suddenly things come to a crashing close when he wants worship. But they are there in the land and, I think, will continue to be there. Later on hordes from the North will come down, God will destroy them, and the Jews will stay in the land until the Lord comes back and establishes His kingdom.

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